

30 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of OBG

SUBJECT : Your Memorandum on the NIS Program

1. This draft of the paper, if it is still a draft, is greatly improved over the original. I have only three suggestions.

2. Your Option C, I think a short paragraph of additional argumentation should be included, and would suggest the following insertion between the two paragraphs at the top of page 9.

"On the other hand, transfer of production responsibility for the political chapters from OCI to OBG, would create overlap and some outright duplication of effort and facilities. Some of the services and capabilities that OBG would have to add are for OCI by-products of other activities. These include information handling facilities, substantive files, and maintenance of knowledge and analytical skills. OCI, for its part, would have the added task of providing substantive review for the OBG produced manuscripts."

The second line of what is now the second paragraph on page 9, should then be made to read "all the advantages and disadvantages inherent in C(1)...."

3. We believe much more could be done with 30 man years on the handbook program than your treatment of Option D would suggest. A revised working of the first paragraph under Option D might be as follows:

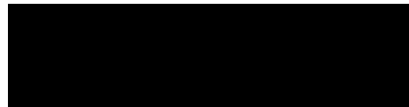
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"The OCI Country Handbook, now compiled largely as a byproduct from the NIS General Survey, could become the vehicle. The Handbook program embraces 147 countries. Topical coverage would need to be expanded 3 to 4-fold to meet general consumer needs for basic intelligence. The targeted 30 man years of effort should yield some 40-50 of the expanded handbooks (initial coverage) per year. 4-5 handbooks could be maintained annually per man year, thereafter, making annual maintenance of basic intelligence production on all countries of the world a near reality. A small central coordinating staff would be required, in OBGI or elsewhere. This staff would also issue the NIS Factbook."

4. We would delete under Option D the statement that the NIS Factbook would disappear. We understand that this takes about two man years, and we consider the effort worth it.

5. I am not sending these comments to DDI or D/OER. My notion would be for us to work out changes jointly first.

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Richard Lehman  
Director of Current Intelligence